

- C2
- (h) polymerizing the elastomeric composition [dissolved in a solvent] and forming at least a portion of a layer on the stent in the tube; and
- (i) removing the stent from the tube.

[Please cancel claim 10 without prejudice or disclaimer of matter contained therein.

28. (Twice Amended): A method for applying a covering layer to a stent comprising:

- C3
- (a) coating a surface with a lifting medium;
- (b) preparing an elastomeric polymerisable composition dissolved in a solvent;
- (c) coating the surface with the elastomeric polymerisable composition dissolved in the solvent;
- (d) rolling at least a portion of the stent, in an expanded condition, on the surface;
- (e) removing the stent from the surface;
- (f) evaporating the solvent from the stent; and
- (g) polymerizing the elastomeric polymerisable composition [dissolved in solvent] on at least [a] the portion of the stent.

12. (Twice Amended): A method for applying a covering layer to a stent comprising:

- (a) forming a tube made out of an elastomeric polymerisable composition;
- (b) radially contracting the stent;
- (c) inserting into the tube at least a portion of the stent; and

(d) radially expanding at least [a] the portion of the stent in the tube or allowing at least [a] the portion of the stent to expand in the tube, and bonding at least [a] the portion of the stent and the tube together.

13. (Twice Amended): A method for applying a covering layer to a stent comprising:

- C3
- (a) forming a tube made out of an elastomeric polymerisable composition;
 - (b) coating the inside of the tube with an adhesive medium;
 - (c) radially contracting the stent;
 - (d) inserting into the tube at least a portion of the stent;
 - (e) radially expanding at least [a] the portion of the stent in the tube or allowing at least [a] the portion of the stent to expand in the tube; and
 - (f) curing the adhesive medium between at least [a] the portion of the stent in the tube.

14. (Twice Amended): A method for applying a covering layer to a stent comprising:

- (a) forming a tube from an elastomeric polymerisable composition;
- (b) preparing an elastomeric composition dissolved in a solvent;
- (c) coating the inside of the tube with [an] the elastomeric [polymerisable] composition dissolved in the solvent;
- (d) radially contracting the stent;
- (e) inserting into the tube at least a portion of the stent;
- (f) radially expanding at least [a] the portion of the stent in the tube or allowing at least [a] the portion of the stent to radially expand in the tube;
- (g) evaporating the solvent; and
- (h) polymerizing the elastomeric composition to the tube and to the stent.

C4 345. (Amended) A method for coating a stent comprising:

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(a) inserting [an at least partially] a radially contracted stent into a tube, the tube having an inner surface and the stent having an inner and outer surface;

(b) radially expanding the stent or allowing the stent to radially expand in the tube so that at least part of the stent outer surface makes contact with at least part of the tube inner surface;

(c) coating at least part of the inner and/or the outer surface of the stent with an elastomeric polymerisable composition [comprising] dissolved in a solvent;

(d) evaporating [at least a portion of] the solvent;

(e) polymerizing the elastomeric composition; and

(f) removing the coated stent from the tube.

16. ⁴ (Amended) A method for coating a stent comprising:

(a) coating a surface with a lifting medium;

[(a)] (b) coating [a] the surface with an elastomeric polymerisable composition [comprising] dissolved in a solvent;

[(b)] (c) rolling at least a portion of an [at least partially] expanded stent on the surface to coat at least part of the stent with the elastomeric polymerisable composition comprising a solvent;

[(c)] (d) removing the stent from the surface;

[(d)] (e) evaporating [at least part of] the solvent; and

[(e)] (f) polymerizing the elastomeric composition.

17. (Amended) A method for coating a stent comprising:

(a) forming a tube from an elastomeric polymerisable composition, the tube having an inner surface;

(b) inserting [an at least partially] a contracted stent into the tube, the stent having an inner surface and an outer surface;

(c) radially expanding the stent or allowing the stent to radially expand in the tube so that at least part of the stent outer surface makes contact with at least part of the tube inner surface; and

(d) bonding at least a part of the outer surface of the stent to the inner surface of the tube.

18. **(Amended)** A method for coating a stent comprising:

(a) forming a tube made from an elastomeric polymerisable composition, the tube having an inner surface;

(b) coating the inner surface of the tube with an adhesive medium;

(c) inserting [an at least partially] a contracted stent into the tube;

(d) radially expanding the stent in the tube or allowing the stent to radially expand in the tube; and

(e) allowing the adhesive medium to cure.

19. **(Amended)** A method for coating a stent comprising:

(a) forming a tube made from an elastomeric polymerisable composition, the tube having an inner surface;

(b) coating at least a part of the inside of the tube with an elastomeric polymerisable composition comprising a solvent;

(c) inserting [an at least partially] a contracted stent into the tube, the stent having an inner surface and an outer surface;

(d) radially expanding the stent in the tube or allowing the stent to radially expand in the tube;

(e) evaporating [at least part of] the solvent; and

(f) polymerizing the elastomeric composition.

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(New) A method for applying a covering layer to a stent comprising:

- (a) coating the inner surface of a tube with a lifting medium;
- (b) coating the tube with an elastomeric composition dissolved in a solvent

and then evaporating the solvent;

- (c) radially contracting a stent;
- (d) inserting at least a portion of the contracted stent into the tube;
- (e) radially expanding at least the portion of the stent in the tube or allowing

at least the portion of the stent to radially expand in the tube;

(f) coating the tube and stent with an elastomeric composition dissolved in a solvent and then evaporating the solvent;

(g) polymerizing the elastomeric composition and forming at least a portion of a layer on the stent in the tube; and

(h) removing the stent from the tube.

REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges receipt of the Office Action dated November 17, 1995 (paper no. 8). Claims 9 - 19 are pending and have been rejected, although it is appreciatively acknowledged that claims 9, 10, and 15 have been deemed to contain patentable subject matter. Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Applicant has amended the specification to insert the subject matter of the originally filed claims. The claims have been amended to obviate certain rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claim 20 has been added to present the subject matter of originally filed claim 10 in independent form. Further support for new claim 20 is found in the specification at page 4, lines 9 - 26 and page 5, lines 11 - 21. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added by way of the amendments.